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Out Of Sight, Out Of Mind

When a newsman called at his home in Pound, which is in Wise County and hard on the Kentucky border, OLIVER POWERS, who has had more of the spotlight of publicity than a proper mountain man would seek, evidently spoke for himself as well as his son when he said:

"I can't give you any information on that. I know he has quit. But he wants to stay out of sight; he doesn't want to be bothered."

Those comments concerned the announcement in Washington that FRANCIS GARY POWERS, the U2 Pilot, had resigned his position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

This Virginia young man has had some rough going. He has been under grave strain in Russia, where he was a Soviet prisoner after being shot down in his plane, and in this country, where he saw his marriage broken and his actions questioned by a segment of the people.

FRANCIS POWERS has been with the CIA in Washington since his return home in February, and it well may be, as the CIA announced, that POWERS has "finished his work with us." That would be because POWERS is a pilot rather than a specialist in some other CIA activities. It also would be because POWERS, after his experience, no longer can be useful to the CIA. Just as the FBI Agent must be a man easy to overlook in any crowd, so must the CIA people be persons with that quality once—but no longer—required of those around the President of the United States, people with a passion for anonymity.

Perhaps FRANCIS POWERS and his parents can resume the peaceful way of their lives outside the spotlight of world attention. That is what they want. We hope they can regain it. Doing so, however, will be a real feat for some time yet.